

**Money Follows the Person Demonstration Project
DHHS Internal Planning Meeting
10/1/2007**

Meeting Notes

Attendees

Lisa Jackson, DMH
Tara Heasley, DMH
Carol Potter, DVRS
Julia Bick, DHHS Housing
Jennifer Olson, DHHS

Larry Swabe, NCCDD
Gina Rutherford, DMA
Tara Larson, DMA
Lorie Williams, DMA

Purpose

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the outcome of the MFP Stakeholders Kick-off meeting and the next steps in the project.

CMS MFP New Project Director Training

Lorie Williams presented an overview of the training conducted by CMS on September 26 and 27 by CMS in Baltimore for new MFP Project Directors.

MFP Logo

Lorie presented a copy of the logo that CMS is using for the MFP project and asked the group for approval to adopt the logo for use in North Carolina's MFP project. There was no objection from the group.

Other Information

Lorie shared issues and concerns that were voiced by attendees from other states at the training, which prompted staff to ask questions about barriers and challenges we might encounter in North Carolina.

1. Availability of Funding – clarification was provided to indicate that reimbursement does not begin until the date of transition. This can present barriers to one-time expenditures such as security deposits, mobility aids, etc. However, it was indicated that the services can be provided; they just can't be billed until the actual date of transition.

It was mentioned that the Umstead Act may allow for payment of fee-for-service for up to six months prior to transition but the CFR may only allow for 60 days. However, if this approach is taken, the enhanced FMAP would not be available. Larry Swabe stated that the ideal situation would be to have a fund available for one-time expenses that would be refunded from the grant funds once the transition was complete.

2. Non-covered Services – A system will need to be in place to accommodate services that are not covered by Medicaid and that will need to continue after the grant ends. The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation may be able to sustain these activities after MFP.

Julia Bick asked how the system would be reimbursed for housing and other non-covered services and whether continuing rent would be covered. Tara asked to group to consider how to make housing costs equitable and how continuing cost could be funded after the grant funding ended. Larry suggested that the First for Families program may be a resource for this activity.

3. Enhanced Funding Period – It was clarified that funding is only available for the 12-month period after transition. This is not the same as 365 “rolling” days. However, if the participant is hospitalized for a period after transition, the number of days of inpatient service do not count toward the 12-month time period. The protocol will need to address how this will be tracked.
4. Consumer Involvement – Regarding discussions about stipends for consumers participating in the development of the project, Lorie stated that according to CMS, stipends can be funded through the administrative budget for the grant.
5. Guardianship – Lorie stated that CMS does not want bank officers or attorneys to act as guardians for participants transitioning to the community unless they have had contact with the patient during the previous six months prior to transition. Tara Larson pointed out that it is not unusual for LMEs or DD center directors to act as guardians, and that these entities don’t always have direct contact with the participant. We must ensure that case managers are involved.
6. Operational Protocol – Lorie reported to the group that since the operational protocol is in essence our contract with CMS, once it is approved, changes can only be negotiated through the project director.

New Hampshire MFP

MFP staff from New Hampshire attended the training and shared their experience with developing benchmarks. Their suggestion was to choose a benchmark that was consumer-focused. New Hampshire has completed their protocol and will be sharing it with other states.

Stakeholders Kick-off Meeting

Tara shared information from the Stakeholders Kick-off Meeting on September 17. The outcome of the meeting was that the stakeholders would like the state to develop the first draft of the operational protocol and then present the draft at several regional meetings across the state.

Development of the Operational Protocol

The group agreed to the following timeline for the development of the operational protocol:

October – write and review draft (October 31 deadline)

November – present draft at regional public meetings; finalize draft (November 26 deadline); submit to CMS for approval

December – CMS reviews draft

January – CMS approves protocol

The work groups for the development of the protocol will be chaired by members of the state work group as follows:

Housing – Julia Bick (Julia has completed the draft protocol for the housing component)

Marketing/Outreach – Tara Heasley and Lisa Jackson

Benefits/Services – Carol Potter

It was anticipated that Holly Riddle would want someone to represent the DD Council on each of the work groups and that Christina Carter and Vivian Leon would want to participate on each of the work groups.

Work group meetings will be scheduled for the week of October 8th with a follow-up status meeting for the state work group to follow during the week of October 22nd.

Advisory Committee

The group discussed various methods of soliciting consumers for participation on the advisory committee. It was determined that obtaining nominations would provide a better commitment to the project. Lorie and Larry will meet to develop a nomination application for advisory committees. The stakeholder groups that were represented at the Kick-off meeting could be utilized to get the nomination applications out to the consumers and advocates. It was also suggested that the Secretary could choose from the pool of applicants. Julia will notify her task force and have them contact Lorie for additional information. The group suggested that 4 to 6 meetings should be held each year.

Grant Director Position

Lorie reported that applications have been received for the grant director position and that group interviews will be held soon. Contacts from other agencies will be asked to participate in the interview process.

MFP Webpage

The group discussed various options for a webpage. At this time, a webpage on the DMA site has been developed and is available. The current webpage provides access to the instructions for the operational protocol and information from the Stakeholders Kick-off Meeting. The information brochure and the MFP logo will be added upon approval from DHHS Public Affairs.

The pros and cons of a dedicated URL for the site were discussed. Gaps in access to information were also discussed. It may be appropriate to ask the Marketing/Outreach Work Group to address these topics.

Action Items:

Schedule Work Groups for week of October 8th

Schedule State Work Group status meeting for week of October 22

Notify State Work Group members of the web address for the MFP webpage.

Develop nomination application

Approval of MFP brochure and logo